

**Document #25 Darke, John    Individual**

Telephone Call Received on December 7, 2004 at 3:00 p.m.

John Darke

Looking at the December 3, 2004, Federal Register notice, pages 70256 and 70257. I appreciate that an entity-specific notice came forward with a little more actual notice.

On first impression going through the November DEIS with respect to scoping representation understanding staff response, it would appear after the fact in terms of decision makers document final EIS. Administratively in the scoping representation one technical aspect stood out. A member of the public plainly indicated that in terms of lateral migration that river ice and river debris dams were diverse structures and should be considered. I see no mention of debris. Perhaps someplace buried in the technical background this has been looked at. I'm going to review the total comments further in the scoping process. I would like in terms of finding representation of technical debris so I'm going to continue to comment because there was a state publication that appears to be overlooked.

**Document #26 Darke, John    Individual**

Telephone Call Received on December 8 at 11:10 a.m.

John Darke

By way of procedure I have a concern. The comment line mailbox is full. The procedure for getting assistance in utilizing the reading room routes through the comment line. I think most people have a respect for the hard work DOE staff would prefer the “on the record” comment line rather than rolling over to an extension.

Speaking of on the record when the pertinent parts of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement are reviewed as you work through understanding of the public scoping you’re left with a very short of key word sound like representation of the verbal suggestion respectfully requested on-the-record scoping process. (I’ll try to speak slowly so you can copy it.)

*Continuation at 11:20 a.m.*

My comments are about the administrative bottleneck particularly 1.5 public and agency involvement and particularly 1.5.1. There are persons, as I recall, that cover a lot more ground than reflected in the synopsis within the Draft Environmental Impact Statement reveals with respect to scoping dealing with particularly where the new information that has emerged in terms of the extent of ground water contamination and a very technical aspect of the proposal within the decision makers document the DEIS. To give an example, although the 7.5-minute quadrangle geologic map makes reference to a study by the state salt deformation in the in the Paradox region I can’t even pronounce even though the 7.5-minute map and the preliminary and base...

*Continuation at 11:20 a.m.*

I was calling about the lack of referral as far as I can find to Utah State Geological and Mineral Survey Bulletin 122, 1988, Salt Deformation in the Paradox Region. I am particularly concerned because the preliminary and base maps utilize via the most available if not the most accurate 7.5-minute geology map. Probably given a [inaudible] who is based on two monographs the bulletin geology of the salt valley anticline but also in the title and Arches National Park, Grand County, Utah also is in that Bulletin 122 tying the deformation related to the Paradox salts in the Canyonlands area of Utah. Peter W. Huntoon. I can recall understanding the hypothetical nature of that bulletin that it has residence and particularly with respect to the brine and hydrologic communication of the brine across the river and solvents work of December 2003 and I’m concerned because there was obvious professional disagreement between DOE staff and contractor staff and State of Utah staff and contractor. We have great professional opinion. So I would really like an understanding of where within the bases of the SOWP and the bases of that...

*Continuation at 11:30 a.m.*

So I really need a better understanding and guidance of where within the technical literature available to the public. I could find a reflection of what I consider to be a pertinent bulletin hypothetical or no and particularly with respect to the salt/salt brine protected water. I can’t find it. It keeps backing off the possibility of where the site contamination went and in the fact of different professional opinion I feel that it is important that this is resolved promptly or at least

the opportunity to comment on the discrepancy in terms of what the DOE proposes in the decision makers document. The public accesses this document. If I could please receive guidance as to how, in the [inaudible] of the information ,I could efficiently find the reflection of that bulletin so I would have confidence that it was taken into consideration. It might be hidden in plain sight in some reference somewhere besides the 7.5-minute quadrangle map and it might be in the working papers. It just didn't show up in the reading...

...Microelectronics as a matter of fact there is a letter early on in the NRC environment...

If somehow I could receive reference to this material I would appreciate it.

**Document #27 Darke, John Individual**

Telephone Call Received on April 13, 2005 at 11:20 p.m.

John Darke

I've been researching MED AEC access activities in the area and the river road of course was a U.S. Bureau AEC road. In the process I ran across two articles, one January 1, 1953, page 1, The Times Independent, Volume 58, number 1, and December 23, 1954, number 50, of the successive volume.

As you'll recall—I'll take the second article first—in the scoping process I had concerns about the interaction of river debris and ice among other places at the bridge upstream from the Moab site. In the December 23, 1954, Number 50 on page 1 it says "Ice Jam Threatens Work on New Bridge." As you know, the old bridge was replaced after being found to be a little shaky. That's in the last column to the right, the previous article of January 1, 1953, I would like to back up. The other article and this is a correction. I'll call back.

11:30 a.m.

Continuation of the previous message.

The December 23, 1954, article had Volume 59, Number 50, dealt with the ice jam on old Highway 160 at the bridge crossing the Colorado River, that was on page 1.

The second article also deals with the new bridge and it indicates that on March 19, 1953, had Volume 58, Number 12. The title of the article...soundings for new bridge...and it indicates that essentially they found (a) the bed load to be deeper, the river cut much deeper, and that there was, I'll quote "a shear structure a false structure there which given M Bar given 0435 MAO 0435 and given Doelling's map of the 7.5 minute quadrangle...survey."

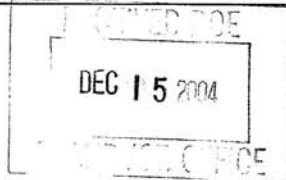
I can't find where there is documentation of that at the bridge and between 3, 4 to the extent of that still relied upon, I can't see that. So that part of March 19, 1953, I think it should be reviewed. The data is there.

Take it easy.

Document #28 Cloud, Neil B. Southern Ute Indian Tribe



## SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE



#28

December 8, 2004

Moab DEIS Comments  
U.S. Department of Energy  
2597 B ¾ Road  
Grand Junction, Colorado 81503

Re: Moab Uranium Mill Tailings Project

Dear U.S. Department of Energy:

I have reviewed your letter regarding the DOE's proposal to clean up surface contamination and implement a ground water compliance strategy to address contamination on the Moab uranium ore processing site. At this time the Southern Ute Indian Tribe does not wish to comment. Thank you for your correspondence. In the event of inadvertent discoveries of Native American cultural sites, artifacts, or human remains, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe would appreciate immediate notification.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at the number listed below, extension 2209.

Sincerely,

*Neil B. Cloud*

Neil B. Cloud  
NAGPRA Coordinator

Cc: Howard D. Richards Sr., Chairman  
Southern Ute Indian Tribe

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P.O. Box 737 \* IGNACIO, CO 81137 \* PHONE: 970-563-0100

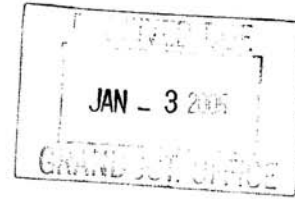
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**Document #31 Walker, Olene S. Former Governor, State of Utah**



**STATE OF UTAH**  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
SALT LAKE CITY  
84114-0601

OLENE S. WALKER  
GOVERNOR



GAYLE F. McKEACHNIE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

#31

December 29, 2004

Don Metzler  
Moab Federal Project Director  
U.S. Department of Energy  
2597 B ¼ Road  
Grand Junction, CO 81503

Dear Mr. Metzler,

I am writing in concert with the approval of Governor Schwarzenegger of California, Governor Napolitano of Arizona, Governor Guinn of Nevada, and Governor Richardson of New Mexico regarding the pending decision by the Department of Energy (DOE) that will impact all downstream users of the Colorado River. A draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) has been issued for the Moab Uranium Mill Tailings pile located on the banks of the Colorado River. DOE did not specify a preferred alternative for either stabilizing the pile in place or moving the pile to an alternative site away from the river. This is the only pile of tailings still left on the Colorado River. The State of Utah and many other stakeholders have consistently maintained the position that these tailings must be removed to a secure off-site location away from the river.

We have been working for several years with the federal government to resolve many questions associated with the pile. When the site operator went bankrupt, we supported federal legislation to transfer the authority to remediate the pile to the Department of Energy. As a result, DOE was given the responsibility to manage this large volume of tailings and resultant environmental issues associated with it. For years, contaminants, including heavy metals, ammonia, and radiologics, have been entering the Colorado River from the tailings pile, degrading the overall quality of the river, and threatening several species of endangered fish. As part of the transfer of authority, federal legislation required the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) to study the remediation of the pile and provide information to DOE. NAS was clear that consideration of long-term impacts should help guide the eventual remediation decision. At this juncture in the process, after many years of technical review and study, uncertainty remains that stabilization of the tailings on-site is a responsible decision. The Utah Department of Environmental Quality will be presenting compelling arguments in their DEIS comments to suggest that the factor of the potential of river migration alone is

#31, p2

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a long-term impact that can only be mitigated by removal of the pile from the banks of the Colorado River.

There is broad support for moving the tailings from local, state, and federal stakeholders that have toiled for several years to achieve that goal. We appreciate the work accomplished and the ongoing stewardship responsibilities for the Moab Millsite by DOE. We want to make it clear that any remediation other than an off-site option is unacceptable.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Olene S. Walker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Olene" and last name "Walker" clearly distinguishable.

Olene S. Walker  
Governor

**Document #33 Swasey, G.R. and Verla Individual**

From: gvs [gvs@preciscom.net]  
Sent: Saturday, January 08, 2005 5:25 PM  
To: moabcomments  
Subject: Moab Tailings Pile

This message is about the Atlas tailings pile or pond ..we think it will become a downwinders mess as the wind will blow & the City of Moab and the surrounding area will be covered with radiation and chemical soil..so if your dept and the government are ready to accept the people who will be affected now and later into the years, then I would like to make a suggestion.....  
drill wells into the tailings pile & into the bedrock, case the gravel, pipe the water to Klondike flats where it will evaporate, it can be covered or capped & the river water will come back into the pile & the pile can be capped. A concrete barrier wall will be needed between the river and the pile.  
thanks for listening

G.R. & Verla Swasey



**Document #34 Nielsen, M. Gail    Individual**

**From:** Granngramp@aol.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 09, 2005 3:14 PM  
**To:** moabcomments; nielsenles@cox.net  
**Subject:** Yellow mud Cake

I worked at the mill at hite during the 1951 summer. I'm seventy seven years old and still going strong, and no ill effects from the U3O8.

M Gail Nielsen    217 West 900 South, Orem Utah

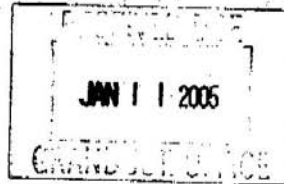
**Document #36 McDermott, Patrick Community of Bluff**

**COMMUNITY OF BLUFF**  
BLUFF SERVICE AREA BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
P.O. Box 310, Bluff, Utah 84512

#36

January 6, 2005

Joel Berwick  
Moab Project Manager  
US Department of Energy  
2597 B ¼ Road  
Grand Junction, CO 81503



re: Comments from Bluff, Utah Regarding Atlas Mill Tailings Site and Proposed Pipeline to White Mesa

Dear Mr. Berwick;

San Juan County Ordinance No. 1992-3 established the Bluff Service Area and specified that our board was to provide culinary water services and to manage storm water drainage, among other powers.

Bluff's culinary water supply is derived from an aquifer within the Navajo Sandstone Formation. The recharge zone of our culinary water supply lies, in part, directly under the proposed White Mesa Mill site. The flexible membrane liners at White Mesa Mill were installed in 1980 and have been shown to leak by a report conducted by Titan Environmental in 1994. Our sole culinary water supply is directly at risk from this project.

Furthermore, surface runoff and other stormwater drainage flows over the White Mesa Mill site into Westwater Canyon, which then joins Cottonwood Wash, which flows right through the middle of Bluff.

Therefore, the Bluff Service Area Board of Trustees would like to express our opposition to the proposed transport of Atlas Mill tailings to White Mesa. Storage of these tailings at White Mesa would negatively affect our ability to protect our sole culinary water supply. Potentially contaminated surface runoff would impair our abilities to safely manage stormwater drainage in Bluff.

The Bluff Service Area Board of Trustees voted unanimously in this matter and the people of our community are solidly behind us in our desire to protect our water supply and our health.

Thank you for considering our request that none of the Atlas Mill tailings be moved to White Mesa.

Sincerely,

Patrick McDermott,  
Chairman

**Document #37 Darke, John Individual**

Telephone Call Received on January 13, 2005, at 10:10 a.m.

John Darke

Request that the recent report on the two injection recovery wells, if it could get to the library as soon as possible if it hasn't already to the reading room and a circulation copy would be a good idea. I can't request this officially for the library. But I hate to get in this sort of suspense and ...if I had access to it briefly. I'm strictly interested in the information containing the data particularly, and of course the description of the boreholes and wells.

The second aspect is that I get a distinct feeling that there is a [inaudible] political activity that I feel is beginning to intrude via the labor process on the decision-making for which entails the draft of the environmental impact statement. I can't really throw stones, but I've made verbal comments via the hot line and I'm sure you've already received written comments.

I'm looking forward to the DOE staff presentation at the meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup>. There has been local preparation, so that's on the side really, but I hope it's a full presentation.

*Continuation at 12:50 p.m.*

Thank you for the opportunity and all my interactions on the hot line should be comments most of them deal with process. In my previous message this morning, I indicated that I had a chance to briefly review the [inaudible] and I requested that a circulating copy go along with the archival copy at the reading room at the Grand County public library. When I went down to the references, I noticed two reference books that the staff apparently in part utilizes for, well I use them when I completely fog out and U.S. Forest Service or some concept in terms of ground water and I wonder if it might be a good idea and appropriate if the DOE could place a circulating copy of these reference materials. The decisions entail getting to the DEIS and where the DEIS evolves into the final EIS and the implementation of the decision-making process. I feel since to my mind the technical documents supporting the DEIS are excellent and the contributory materials such as that I discussed earlier this morning is a godsend that it would be helpful if the community—it's not going to be the most popular book in the stack—but that certain portions of the community have access to reference material that would further enlighten them with the tack taken by the technical person.

**Document #42 Darke, John Individual**

Telephone Call Received on January 28, 2005 at 10:50 a.m.

John Darke

I received, under cover of a note dated January 26 05, material which was proposed to be responsive to a request for information which is needed in order to respond to FR 6970256 and subsequent FR. I appreciate the effort made; however, I am not looking at the record which apparently, but not necessarily, was called the public reading room. If there was action of the previous committee records occurred. I feel it can be mitigated in one of the boxes. My best information of the materials that were turned over to the DOE Grand Junction Office by PricewaterhouseCoopers the 1973 preliminary survey and attached records is available. Time does not permit me on the phone to spell it out but the references in the ...agency 1987 vicinity properties and I will get an email to you to substantiate this phone call.

*Continuation at 11:10 a.m.*

This is a comment on the record of Federal Record 697025, September 3, 2004, and subsequent Federal Register notice. In a meeting that I attended recently, I spoke to the project director and showed that project director figure 3-8 of "Conceptual Model, Salt Water/Freshwater Interface" found in the Remediation of the Moab Uranium Mill Tailings Grand and San Juan Counties, Utah, Draft Environmental Impact Statement. I indicated that the word "brine" in that conceptual model was misleading. As a matter of equity, I would like to place on the record that communication. Subsequently, I spoke to the project engineer, there was an illustration in the room and I drew that person's attention to a well field injection and recovery wells and a supplementary well field at the banks of the Colorado. I was speaking about the Fall 2004 performance assessment of the ground water interim action well fields at the Moab, Utah, project site dated January 2005. I pointed out that, in that you have a drawdown of the extraction wells, that you have a communication with the Colorado River ... zone, resulting in piping in both directions, which I have concerns about.

*Continuation at 11:20 a.m.*

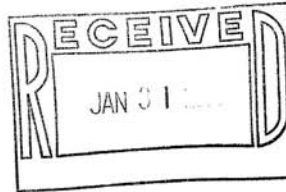
This is a continuation of the comments by John Darke. I was speaking of a communication between myself and the project engineer and previously the project director. I continue to comment about DOE EM/GJ769-2004...that January 2005 record indicates...I feel there is irretrievable commitment of resources, that there was an action taken, albeit in the interim, which created a pathway between the river and the errant soils that encompasses the river between essentially contaminated on-site areas and the river. The implications are that Grand Junction project has acted, and I feel the concurrence by the NRC oversight mechanism was required for the activity exhibited by the January 2005 report. As a matter of equity, I feel that it is important when I am not asking for additional information in order to comment that it goes on the record. Some persons cannot fire off an email or whatever, but I feel that the preconceive of that situation would require immediate response. Title I is plain and it indicates that under certain circumstances, concurrence by the NRC is required. I feel this is a circumstance, again...(cut off by telephone system)

**Document #43 Baker, Pamela W. Individual**

Pamela W. Baker  
1950 Roadrunner Hill  
Moab, UT 84532  
January 27, 2005

#43

Moab DEIS Comments  
US Department of Energy Grand Junction  
2597 B ¾ Road  
Grand Junction, CO 81503



Dear Sir:

After attending the local public hearing on the Moab Draft Environmental Impact Statement and reading the Executive Summary, I would urge you to **move the tailings pile to the Klondike Flats location.**

Considering the extent of the interim actions the DOE has already instigated (i.e. restricting site access, monitoring ground and surface water, storm water management, dust suppression, pile dewatering, placement of an interim cover) you are aware of the toxicity of this pile. These activities do not even address the acknowledged reality that the extent of the contamination of vicinity properties is currently unknown. We local citizens are concerned that the money spent on this project be well spent toward a **permanent solution**. We are interested in the long-term results for the environment as well as human health not only for our local community, but also for the future of the downstream users of the Colorado River.

Capping the pile in place does not address a permanent solution. **We do not want to spend additional funds in the future to move the pile.** We want it done properly the first time. This is the **cheapest alternative**. Not only is the Colorado River a vital resource to our community, it is important to millions of users downstream as well as nationally for the food produced in California from its irrigation water. We cannot contaminate the future. The impact of large floods in the drainage system or local flashfloods in the Moab Valley cannot be adequately predicted. However, we do know that the power of water to move large volumes of sediment is very real. We do not want this toxic material redistributed either in our local area via flooding of the Moab Valley, nor downstream via a cataclysmic deluge. This is potentially quite expensive.

As to known outcomes, your own executive summary on Page 19 says that **on-site disposal would potentially require prohibitions on the use of ground water for drinking "in perpetuity to protect human health."** On the other hand, the same paragraph states "Under the off-site disposal alternatives, contaminant concentrations in the ground water under the Moab site would return to background levels after 150 years". Let's get this right the first time. Let's protect the future.

Sincerely,

*Pamela Baker*